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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the YEAR 1944.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF NEW ROMNEY,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors:-

The area of the Borough is 1509 acres.

The Resident Population, according to the Registrar General's returns was:- 1182.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year 1944, according to the Rate Books was:- 586.

The Rateable value was £15,987.

The sum represented by a penny rate was £49.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS:-	Legitimate ...	13	14	27
	Illegitimate ...	-	1	1
		13	15	28

This gives a Birth Rate of 23.68 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was:- 17.6.

Birth Rates for the past five years:-

	New Romney.	England & Wales.
1940	11.80	14.60
1941	19.04	14.20
1942	20.06	14.80
1943	17.47	16.50
1944	23.68	17.60
Average	18.41	15.74

DEATHS:-	Male.	Female.	Total.
	8	9	17

This gives a Death Rate of 14.38 per 1000 of the estimated population.

The Death Rate for England & Wales was 11.6 per 1000.

The Death Rates for past five years:-

	New Romney.	England & Wales.
1940	15.02	14.30
1941	15.58	12.90
1942	23.41	11.60
1943	12.47	12.10
1944	14.38	11.60
Average	16.17	12.50

STILL BIRTHS:- There were two still births, both Legitimate females, which gives a rate of 66.66 per 1000 total (live & still) births.

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Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	- Nil
" "	Heart disease	- 7.
" "	Puerperal causes:	- Nil
" "	Measles (all ages)	- Nil
" "	Whooping Cough (all ages)	- Nil
" "	Tuberculosis	- Nil
" "	Diarrhoea (in Children under 2 years of age)	- Nil

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

Pneumonia		2.
Whooping Cough		19.
Scarlet Fever		1.
Tuberculosis, pulmonary,	Male	1.
	female	3.

The case of Scarlet Fever was sent to the Isolation Hospital at Cranbrook, as accommodation was not available at Ashford, or nearer.

The Male case of Tuberculosis was a repatriated prisoner of war.

The three female cases were sent to Sanatoriums.

WATER SUPPLY:-

The Public Water Supply remains the same, and there was no shortage during the year. Bacteriological examinations are carried out Monthly and the reports have been good.
Chlorination was not excessive.

DRAINAGE & HOUSE REFUSE:-

A scheme for Main Drainage of the whole Borough is still under consideration. Our area is so flat that it would be impossible to carry out a scheme without several ejector stations, and hence it makes the cost prohibitive for a small Borough such as this without considerable aid by way of grants.

In view of the increase in the number of houses of late years, it will shortly be necessary to increase the plant for removal of house refuse, and unless Main Drainage is carried out soon, fresh plant will also be required for the emptying of cesspools. At present it is difficult to find the necessary labour to deal with the existing plant.

HOUSING:-

A large number of houses were damaged by enemy action and by shrapnel from our own A.A. defences. The Post War Housing Scheme has been considered and the Council has been allocated ten temporary houses, and they propose to erect twenty permanent houses as part of the first two years' programme, but the Site has not yet been finally settled.

I am, Mr. Mayor,
Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

18th August, 1945.

ARNOLD McMILLAN.